



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Media Contact: Press Office  
(202) 226-9600

## **Hearing: Is Our Nation Prepared for a Public Health Disaster?**

**WHO:** Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology  
Chairman Dave Reichert (R-WA)

**WHEN:** 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, 2006

**WHERE:** 210 Cannon House Office Building

### **WITNESSES**

**Dr. Robert R. Bass**

Member, Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System  
President, National Association of State EMS Officials

**Dr. Frederick Blum**

President, American College of Emergency Physicians  
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine  
West Virginia University School of Medicine

**Ms. Mary Jagim**

Past-President, Emergency Nurses Association  
Internal Consultant for Emergency Preparedness and Pandemic Planning for MeritCare Health System  
Fargo, North Dakota

**Dr. Steven Krug**

Chairman, Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Head, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Children's Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

### **BACKGROUND**

U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology, will convene the first of a series of subcommittee hearings that will examine the state of medical preparedness and response in the United

States. Recent reports have shown that the United States' emergency care system is not ready to handle a public health emergency. As the tragic events in the communities along the Gulf Coast made clear, this is a serious problem. The subcommittee will hear from witnesses with emergency medicine expertise. Their testimony will focus on the preparedness and response capabilities of medical infrastructure currently in place in the United States, and the ability to effectively treat the thousands of sick and injured resulting from a catastrophic act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other emergency.

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